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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ELECTION

PATENT Buyce

7/24/02

PAND licant

Myles S. Douglas

Group Art Unit: 3731

Appl. No.

09/783,720

Filed

February 14, 2001

For

BIFURCATED VASCULAR GRAFT

AND METHOD AND APPARTUS

FOR DEPLOYING SAME

Examiner

Uyen T. Ho

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed December 31, 2001. The Examiner has required restriction to one of two inventions:

Group I (Claims 1-17), drawn to a bifurcated vascular graft, classified in Class 623, Subclass 1.35;

Group II (Claims 18-20), drawn to a method of making a bifurcated vascular graft, classified in Class 623, Subclass 1.35.

Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, to prosecute the claims directed to Group I, classified in Class 623, Subclass 198, in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the nonelected claims in one or more divisional applications. Accordingly, prompt examination on the merits of Claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Appl. No.

: 09/783,720

Filed

: February 14, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated:

By: ///// My / ////
Gerard von Hoffmann

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